

EXPERIENCES

Psalm 90:12

SUMMARY...

The Bible makes one thing clear about life – it's momentary. The Bible uses language like 'mist', 'shadow' and 'vapor' to describe the brevity of our lives. Knowing that tomorrow is not promised to any one of us should lead us to live with great wisdom and urgency. Wisdom in how we apply all that God has placed in our hands to how we live every moment of every day and urgency in being generous to share all that God has placed in our hands today rather than waiting for tomorrow.

God has placed 'many' things in each of our hands but one commonality that is shared between all of us is 'experiences.' We've all had many 'experiences' along the way – experiences that help us see, understand and know who God is and what God is like. As we learn from the men and women in the Bible, ALL of our experiences belong to God and are to be used to help those in our lives see the King and His Kingdom.

A FEW QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

1. Share an experience that helped you grow in your understanding about God. How did this experience shape you? What truth about God did you learn? How did someone else come alongside you to help you navigate this situation and point you to the gospel? How has God used that experience to help others see and know God?
2. The Bible uses the fullness of peoples' experiences to describe how God can use any and all situations. Of those mentioned on Sunday - King David, Job, Moses, Peter and Paul - with whom do you most resonate and why?
3. If the Bible does no 'creative editing,' why do you? What hinders you from fully sharing your story? How might the stories of others (namely, David, Paul, etc) give you courage to share your experiences in a way that helps someone see God's work in your life?
4. Who is one person in your life that needs to experience the Gospel through your experience of the Gospel? Share with your GROUP who that person is and spend some time in prayer for that person, namely the opportunity to share with them ALL that God has done for you.
5. The Psalmist (90:12) tells us to 'grow in wisdom' in response to the brevity of our lives. How is knowing that tomorrow is not promised shaping how you navigate every moment of your day?

BIBLICAL TEXTS CITED...

“Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.” Psalm 144:4 (ESV)

“My life passes as swiftly as the evening shadows.” Psalm 102:11 (NLT)

“LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is. You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.”

Psalm 39:4-5 (NLT)

“We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace.”

1 Chronicles 29:15 (NLT)

Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.” How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone.”

James 4:13-14 (NLT)

“Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.” Psalm 90:12 (NLT)

“In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites... David stayed in Jerusalem. Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath.” 2 Samuel 11:1-2 (NLT)

“Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.”

Acts 8:1 (NLT)

Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know the man!” Matthew 26:74 (NLT)

But Moses argued with the Lord, saying, “I can’t do it!” Exodus 6:30 (NLT)

“If I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him.”

Job 23:8-9 (NIV)

“I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.” Job 42:5-6 (NIV)

“This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners.”

1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NLT)

The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, “No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.”

Luke 8:38-39 (NLT)

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